

SENATE—Tuesday, October 30, 2001

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEFF BINGAMAN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, a very present help in trouble, we praise You for Your tenacity to live through troubled times. We listen in on Your conversation with the Psalmist when he was beset with trouble. We hear Your gracious invitation: "Call on Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."—Psalm 50:15. We respond with the Psalmist, "Hear my prayer, O Lord. Do not hide Your face from me in the day of trouble; incline Your ear to me . . . though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me."—Psalms 102:1; 138:7.

Thank You, Lord, for Your reviving power. You revive us with convictions which cannot be compromised; You are our refuge and our strength; You have blessed our Nation through our history; You will help us be victorious over the evil of terrorism. We also are revived by the replenishing of our confidence: You will save us through our present crisis; we need not fear. We feel Your Spirit surging into our souls: anxiety is replaced by serene security, frustration by faith, tiredness with temerity, caution with courage. And so we say with the Psalmist, "In the day when I cried out, You answered me, and made me bold with strength in my soul."—Psalm 138:3. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEFF BINGAMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 30, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF BINGAMAN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BINGAMAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the day will begin with consideration of the Labor-HHS Appropriations Act. Senators HARKIN and SPECTER are managing this bill. We are going to have a party conference recess from 12:30 to 2:15 today. There will be no rollcall votes prior to 2:15.

I just left a meeting with the majority leader, Senator DASCHLE. He would like to be able to finish the business of the Senate as soon as possible. We have 3 weeks until the Thanksgiving holiday. There is a lot to do. Everybody recognizes that. We completed two appropriations bills that have been sent to the President. We hope to be able to complete this bill even today. That would be what the managers want. They have worked very hard to get to the point where we now are. The two managers are experienced in one of the most difficult bills we normally have. I think this year much of the difficulty has already been completed prior to its arriving on the floor.

So I hope those people who wish to offer amendments will recognize that we are going to come up with a unanimous consent agreement really soon on a time when amendments must be submitted. We haven't completed that with the managers yet, but they agree that something should be done in that regard.

MEASURES PLACED ON CALENDAR—S. 1573 AND H.R. 1552

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk that have been read for the first time; is that correct?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that it be in order that S. 1573 and H.R. 1552, en bloc, receive a second reading, and I will object to any further consideration of these two matters.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1573) to authorize the provision of educational and health care assistance to the women and children of Afghanistan.

A bill (H.R. 1552) to extend the moratorium enacted by the Internet Tax Freedom Act through November 1, 2003, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the rule, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3061, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3061) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I thank the assistant majority leader for his statement about scheduling. It is my hope and it is my recommendation that we proceed very promptly with this bill, with the possibility of concluding it before the end of business today, or certainly no later than midday tomorrow.

There has been ample time for Senators to consider amendments to this legislation. Last year, this bill was reported out of committee on June 30 and floor action was concluded on July 27, and because of scheduling this year, it has come at a later time, understandably. Senators have had an opportunity to consider whatever amendments they want to offer. There is real concern as to what may happen in the remainder of the legislative season, and there has been some talk and most of us, if not all of us, do not want to see a continuing resolution.

Mr. President, the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education bill before the Senate today contains \$123.1 billion in discretionary spending, the full amount of the subcommittee's budget authority allocation under section 302(b) of the Budget Act. This amount represents an increase of \$11.4 billion over the FY'01 freeze level. The